

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 are amended and Claims 1, 3, and 9-11 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Maeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,021, herein “Maeda”) in view of Chau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,765,273, herein “Chau”), and Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants’ representative on May 25, 2005. During the interview, the differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, clarifying claim amendments were also discussed. The Examiner indicated that the claim amendments appear to distinguish over the applied art and he would further review the amended claims in view of a filed response. However, the present amendment does not present the claim amendments discussed during the interview.

In view of the indication that Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 include allowable subject matter, Claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the outstanding Office Action and Claims 1, 3, and 9-11 have been canceled to place this application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number
22850

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/RFF/ys
I:\ATTY\RFF\24S\247561\247561US-AM-AUG2.DOC